Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement

American Rescue Plan
State Fiscal Recovery Funds

Governor's Office of
PLANNING AND BUDGET
THE STATE OF GEORGIA

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Georgia Public Safety Officials and First Responders Supplement

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Fund Source: State Fiscal Recovery Funds

Justification: Negative Economic Impact

Eligibility Period: August 1-August 31, 2021

Application Period: October 1-December 31, 2021

Eligible Employees: POST Certified law enforcement officer, jail officer, communications officer, GFSTC certified career and volunteer firefighters, or DPH certified emergency medical services personnel from the state working for an eligible organization

Supplement:

- $1,000 pay supplement to all eligible individuals
- $300 supplement to Volunteer Firefighters

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Eligible Organizations and Employees

- **Eligible Organizations:** State government agencies and authorities, municipal and county governments, and emergency medical services agencies licensed by the Department of Public Health.

- **Eligible Employees:** Employees of one of the above organizations serving full-time as a public safety official or first responder in a **position requiring active certification** as a law enforcement officer, jail officer, communications officer, firefighter, or emergency medical services personnel from the state from either the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC), or Department of Public Health (DPH).

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Economic Impact Justification

Provides financial reimbursement for expenses likely to have been incurred as a result of being a frontline first responder:

- Potential out of pocket rapid testing to return to work
- Childcare costs incurred while working on the front lines to support our communities with essential services during the pandemic
- Unanticipated dependent care due to duties during COVID-19
- Additional home decontamination/disinfecting services/expenses due to COVID-19
- Additional health & diagnosis cost
- Isolation lodging due to COVID-19

- Other cost(s) associated with COVID-19 duties/deployment that impacted the responder

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Methodology for Disbursements

- Accept request from city, county, and state government entities, or licensed emergency medical services providers
- Cities and counties should apply on behalf of all eligible entities within their jurisdiction under a single grant award to their jurisdiction
  - Payments for departments within a city or county may be submitted as one payment request but should be separate direct expenses with independent supporting documentation
- Licensed emergency medical services agencies may apply. The agency can apply OR the agency can provide the county a list of those who were on their payroll in August and the county can apply on their behalf.

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Application

- The grant program has been created in the GeorgiaGrants portal for all eligible entities thus far.
- Applicants will not see an 'apply now' button, instead the grant will appear in the portal account as approved once the terms and conditions are signed and submitted
  - Applicants will then see the approved grant and a Request Payment button
- October 1st kickoff emails sent to POCs
- Terms and conditions are forthcoming echosign@echosign.com
- Applications must include documentation of payroll and eligibility criteria

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Criteria

- Employee Name
- Primary Employer
- Position Title
- Active Pay Status
- Full Time Status
- Certification Title and Number
- Reflect that the individual was an employee during the period between August 1 and August 31 of 2021
- Payroll information must also show whether the department or entity contributes to the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program or pays Medicare for its Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll taxes.

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Required Documentation

1. **Payroll Verification:** Applicants must submit documentation verifying employment in August of 2021. This documentation must show employee name, position title, active pay status, fulltime status
2. **Template:** Applicants must submit the excel template to include primary employer, employee name, certification title, certification number, August 2021 employment dates , and amount requested
3. **Acceptable Certification Types:** Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST), Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council (GFSTC), or Department of Public Health (DPH)

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Verification of Certification

Law Enforcement: Each Law Enforcement Agency should have a Georgia Peace Officers and Standards Training Council administrator who is able to login to their P.O.S.T. account to view and download the list of the personnel they have within their agency or department.

Note: It is the responsibility of the agency and officer to keep their roster and individual information current. All agencies should make sure their rosters are accurate and up to date with P.O.S.T. All officers should verify their address and contact information in the P.O.S.T. Data Gateway to avoid any verification delays.

EMS: Each EMS Agency is able to login to their OEMST License Management System (LMS) Public Portal (www.mygemsis.org/lms), and they click on Agencies on the left, and then on Personnel on the left to see the list of the personnel that they have on their roster. It will list their license level and expiration date.

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Verification of Certification

Fire: Fire can access their rosters by logging on to the GFSTC website management.gfstconline.org and using their department power user login, access the Firefighters tab.

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Payments

- Funds will be dispersed through the bank account listed with the state during the CRF distribution. The grantee will be responsible for disbursing amongst other accounts they may have by department. If a change to their banking information is required, the grantee will work with OPB and the State Accounting Office to verify new banking info before a payment is made.
- Payment Requests in GeorgiaGrants portal
  - Guide is forthcoming
- **Timing of payments depends upon correct banking, signing of terms and conditions, and providing complete documentation**

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FICA

As a supplement, the payment is considered a wage and therefore subject to FICA, and must be included on a W2 or 1099, as appropriate. The supplement from OPB will include FICA costs.

As such, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) will require eligible entities to submit payroll information to show if it contributes to the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program or pays Medicare for its Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll taxes so that when issued through payroll, eligible employees will receive the full amount.

Grantee payment requests should reflect contributes to the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program or Medicare for its Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll taxes.

FICA	
OASDI and Medicare	7.65%
Medicare Only	1.45%

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Questions

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